

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the thoroughness with which the subject application has been examined. By this amendment, changes have been made in the drawings, specification and the claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections and more concisely claim and describe the present invention. Claims 1-14 remain in the application for reconsideration by the Examiner. The Examiner's allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE DRAWINGS

Due to the incorrect use of both reference characters 100 and 106 for the substrate, the Applicants have amended the paragraph on page 7 beginning at line 3 to refer to the substrate 106. Corresponding amendments are proposed for Figures 3-6 and 9-12. Also, in the text and in Figures 3-6 the exposed major surface of the substrate is now referred to by reference character 107. The specific textual changes are set forth above in the marked-up version of the several specification paragraphs.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, amendments are proposed to Figures 3-8 to make the p- and p+ region references consistent with the specification.

The Applicants propose a revision to Figure 7 to add reference character 118, which is referred to in the specification on page 8, line 7 in conjunction with the description of Figure 7. The Examiner notes that in Figure 7 the p- region is shown as 106 instead of 100. This error has been corrected as described above in conjunction with the incorrect use of both reference characters 100 and 106 for the substrate.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings for the failure to show the "third conductive element" of claim 11. In response the Applicants propose to add a new Figure 41 with corresponding specification amendments to the paragraph beginning in line 18 of page 21 and to the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS on page 5. Since the specification amendments track the claim language and are further supported by the electrical connection between the drain of the PMOS 2 and the drain of the NMOS 4 illustrated in Figure 2, this amendment to the specification and the addition of a new figure does not add new matter to the specification.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE SPECIFICATION

As suggested by Examiner Keshavan, the Applicants have carefully reviewed the specification and corrected various informalities found therein. The corrections are set forth above

in marked-up form. None of these corrections adds new matter to the specification. The Applicants have also corrected the specification errors identified by the Examiner as set forth on page 4 of the Office Action. The Applicants have also corrected the Abstract as required.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE CLAIMS

The Applicants confirm the election of claims 1-14 (Group 1), with traverse, made on July 25, 2003.

The objection to claim 2 as set forth on page 4 of the Office Action should be overcome as the Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion in amending the claim.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Layman publication (US 2003/0060015 A1).

To further define the invention to distinguish over the cited prior art, the Applicant has amended claim 1 as set forth above. In particular, the Applicant has claimed, "an isolation region disposed overlying and between said first and said second source/drain regions for electrically insulating said first and said second source/drain regions;" and further, "a plurality of layers overlying said isolation region, including a first and a second trench formed therein, wherein said first and said second trenches extend through said isolation region;"

According to Layman paragraph [026], line 9, "... an n-tub region 112 and a p-tub region 114 are conventionally formed in electrical isolation along the surface 106 each on a different side of the trench 108." Further as can be seen in Layman Figure 17, there is no, "isolation region disposed overlying and between . . . " and Layman does not disclose, "a plurality of layers overlying said isolation region . . . [and] first and second trenches [that] extend through said isolation region." Thus the Applicant's structure is patentably distinct from Layman.

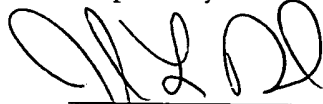
It is respectfully submitted that each of the dependent claims 2-13 further distinguishes the invention over the art of record. For example, the invention as defined in claim 2 further requires, "wherein the first doped region is a first source/drain region of a first MOSFET and the third doped region is a channel region of the first MOSFET, and wherein the second doped region is a first source/drain region of a second MOSFET and the fourth doped region is a channel region of the second MOSFET."

Claim 14 has been amended similar to the amendments to claim 1. Thus the remarks set forth above regarding the allowability of claim 1 apply to claim 14 too.

The Applicant has attempted to comply with all of the points raised in the Office Action and it is believed that the remaining claims in the application, i.e., 1-14, are now in condition for allowance or have already been allowed. In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, it is requested that the Examiner's claim rejections have been overcome. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider these rejections and objections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all the claims pending in the application.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this Amendment or the claim changes made herein, Examiner Keshavan is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

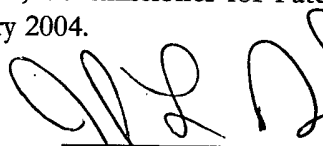
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Amendment and Attachment 1 are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment; Commissioner for Patents; P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 20th day of January 2004.



John L. DeAngelis, Jr.